

## **MINUTES of Illinois P-20 Council**

**Meeting date: July 28, 2010**

**Call to order:** Quarterly meeting of the Illinois P-20 Council was held on May 26, 2010. Chairman Miguel Del Valle called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Members participated in the Council meeting at one of three sites: Chicago, Springfield, or Edwardsville; or by phone.

### **Members in attendance – Roll Call**

**Chicago** – Miguel del Valle, Josh Anderson, , Thomas Choice, Andy Davis, Deanna Demuzio, Judy Erwin, Barbara Flynn Curie, Janel Forde, Erica Hunt, Joyce Karon, Maggie Laslo, Max McGee, Dea Meyer, Jerry Mitchell, Kristine Mayle (CTU-CPS), Cynthia Plouche, Laurel Prussing, Diana Rauner, Jason Tyszko (DCEO) , John Rico, Kathy Ryg, Robin Steans, Debra Strauss

**Springfield** –Ray Hancock (ICCB Foundation), Debbie Meisner-Bertauski (IBHE), Matt Vanover (ISBE), Terry Chamberlain (ISBE), Mike Baumgarten (IBHE), Mike McKinless (ISBE)

**Edwardsville** – Kathleen Brown (IERC), Elaine Johnson (ICCB), Brenda Klostermann (IERC), Bill Searcy (SIUC), Bette Bergeron (SIUC), Eric Lichtenberger (IERC)

**On Phone** – Brad Burzynski, Glenn Poshard, Tom Choice, Cynthia Plouche, Geoff Obrzut (ICCB)

### **I. Chair report and General Updates:**

- a. **Introductions** – Miguel del Valle (Chair) welcomed members to the quarterly meeting of the Council and explained that the delay in the start of the meeting was due to the delay of the adjournment of another meeting held in the room prior to the Council meeting.
- b. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of previous meetings were approved unanimously.
- c. **Race to the Top** – Adoption of Common Core Standards  
Julie Smith reported that Illinois was named one of 18 finalists in the RTTT proposal process. Chair del Valle said that a team will go in mid-August at 11 a.m. in Washington D.C. to present to a group of evaluators in the RTTT process. It is anticipated that 10-15 awards will be made. Illinois has a stronger application now than it did initially. The General Assembly has helped to move our application to a much stronger position. He is confident that Illinois will be chosen to receive an award. The RTTT plan is Illinois' reform plan and it is a strong one that we plan to pursue. The Adoption of the Common Core Standards was a requirement for the RTTT and the Chair commended Chris Koch (ISBE) for his exemplary leadership on this process.
- d. **P-20 Staffing** – Chair del Valle said that the legislation creating the P-20 Council allows for an appropriation but the Council didn't ask for one, given the budget situation. Chicago Community Trust has stepped up and provided a grant to assist with the first year operation of the Council.

Lizanne DeStefano reported that the funds have officially been awarded and the University of Illinois has gotten approval to begin a search for a full-time Visiting Policy Analyst. She will ask the Council for a review of the position description, and will provide opportunity for input into the process. The search committee will include members of the Council and the University of Illinois.

## **II. Presentations by Invited Guests or Council Members:**

### **a. Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) – Terry Chamberlain (ISBE)**

Chair del Valle introduced Terry Chamberlain and added that he sees the ILDS as the glue to assure that the P-20 approach and philosophy of education and practice in Illinois keeps the system together and allows for the kind of communication and accountability we want to see.

Terry Chamberlain explained that the goal of the ILDS project is to establish the technical and management systems necessary for ISBE and its education partners to manage, link, and analyze P-20 education data. Two federal grants and state funds support the initiative.

ILDS has 5 primary components: (1) establish a state education data advisory committee; (2) develop an Enterprise-wide Data Architecture; (3) Establish a system of data stewards and enhanced data audit procedures; (4) develop an Education Enterprise Data Warehouse; (5) Link the ISBE student ID with postsecondary employment data, and use this data for research & analysis

Terry reported that the project is overall on schedule and within budget for all 5 of the elements above, although it is slightly behind schedule on the Enterprise-wide Data Architecture. They expect to have an RFP out in a few months for a vendor for the Education Enterprise Data Warehouse. ISBE is working closely with ICCB and IBHE and the Higher Education Consortium (HEC) to link ISBE data with Postsecondary and Employment Data.

Terry also discussed the ILDS Expansion Grant Project, which has four primary components: (1) Establish a statewide transcript system for Middle and High School students; (2) integrate student-level data with teacher and administrator data; (3) Continued expansion and development of postsecondary education data systems; (4) Expansion of Early Childhood data collection systems.

For further details and information, Council members can consult the ILDS Project Web site at: <http://www.isbe.net/ILDS/htmls/project.htm> or the Data Advisory Committee Web site at: <http://www.isbe.net/ILDS/default.htm>

## **III. Committee Reports/Updates:**

### **a. Assessments and Data – Max McGee explained that the committee has identified “Big Picture” items to address:**

1. Talking about Readiness and Metrics
2. Informing instruction, enhancing learning, as well as assessment
3. Assessment system must include a component that includes parents, teachers, etc. in schools
4. Technology must be incorporated in testing, reporting, and access
5. Assessment must enhance learning but should generate student knowledge

The next committee meeting is September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the Ounce of Prevention office.

**b. Teacher Quality** – Josh Anderson reported that the committee is targeting December 2010 for a full report that will include a thorough rundown of the state of affairs in teacher quality in Illinois, a literature review, identification of guiding questions, and a recommendation dashboard. Four sections will cover:

1. Supply and hiring – recruitment and teacher preparation
2. Evaluation – expectations, how findings are communicated
3. Professional support and development – needs assessments, design process
4. Retention and attrition – how to address these issues in terms of retaining (a) high performing teachers, (b) teachers meeting expectations, and (c) teachers not meeting expectations

**c. Family, Youth and Community Engagement** – Kathy Ryg/Debra Strauss reported that the initial meeting of this committee is August 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at Chicago Community Trust. The goal is to create a 2 way dialogue that will take the work of the P-20 Council to family, youth, and communities, and will get their input on the work of the Council.

Kathy Ryg reported that the Community Federation of Schools is folding into this committee. Senator Demuzio requested that as the committee works with downstate communities, to please consult with her and Representative Jerry Mitchell to identify who to work with in their areas of the state.

**d. School, College, and Career Readiness** – Chair del Valle reported that John Rico has agreed to co-chair this committee with Sharon Thomas Parrot. John commented that this is an important subcommittee of the P-20 Council that will address the three primary issues of (1) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), (2) Veterans/Disabilities, (3) Minorities in Technology

John encourages everyone on the P-20 Council to consider joining the committee, and also welcomes outside individuals with “heart” for and knowledge about these issues.

**IV. Strategic Planning** – Lizanne DeStefano introduced this section and said that the Council is shifting from information gathering to strategic planning for this meeting and for the October meeting. In between those two quarterly meetings of the P-20 Council, the committees will work on the framework.

**a. Objectives of Planning Process:**

- Introduce and employ a planning framework capable of advancing the Council’s objectives of being an agile structure that can rapidly respond to emerging opportunities and issues
- Use the Council’s mission to develop top-level goals, optimal outcomes, measures, targets, and actions
- Identify concrete actions for executing the plan
- Discuss approaches for ensuring high levels of collaboration among the Council members and contributing institutions
- Think together (and have some fun too!)

- b.** Substantial discussion centered on the question of “Why does the P-20 Council exist?” Comments included the following:
- In terms of retention in postsecondary education, we have to address the problem of students being underprepared in math and science when entering college, particularly among minority populations.
  - I want to see a seamless education system that wants our kids to succeed going forward and for Illinois to move ahead...let’s get on the same page for once in the state of Illinois.
  - It’s an opportunity to expand the group talking about P-20 issues.
  - It keeps things moving cohesively and coherently.
  - It’s the most common sense committee I’ve been on, but also one of the most difficult tasks; we need to be talking about governance and finance of education in Illinois, and about facilities and students.
  - Establishing a vision and orchestrating a plan; fiscal constraints mean there will be a need for crisis management.
  - Every challenge is an opportunity and vice versa. We can’t legislate the role that parents play – we can’t mandate that we break any cycle with respect to their roles. What is important to business and other stakeholders isn’t always what’s important to parents and community.
  - We have a grave crisis in Chicago and Illinois in disadvantaged communities and we must address that crisis.
  - This is an opportunity to overcome our silo based approaches to education in Illinois.
  - I started thinking about this when working on the IBHE Public Agenda – the goal is a Healthier, Wealthier Democracy. Education is the most powerful tool to achieve social mobility. Have to do it within constraints—rational choice to get the best bang for our buck.
- c. Goal Statements** – Lizanne DeStefano explained that the most effective P-20 Councils in the U.S. chose goals and projects wisely and stayed with them over the long term to effect real change. Discussion centered on four proposed goals and whether they are reasonable and identifiable:
1. Data integration, Assessment and Accountability
  2. Effectiveness of Teachers and Educational Leaders
  3. College and Career Readiness
  4. Family, Youth, and Community Engagement

Many Council members made suggestions and caveats about setting goals and not duplicating efforts already made by other entities in Illinois:

- Judy Erwin (IBHE) said to look at the IBHE Public Agenda goals which look a lot like these goals. IBHE has a lot of data – we know where we are failing. We should look at what we would have to do to meet the level of the best performing state (Massachusetts).
- Kathleen Sullivan Brown (IERC) said IERC has done a lot of research on high schools grads, teachers, principals, etc. We don’t need to “reresearch”. We could easily become data driven. Be sure to look at goals laid out in legislation, which included fostering innovative approaches to education.
- Maggie Laslo (SEIU) said we must be intentional about setting out goals.
- Joyce Karon said to look at (1) PARCC ; (2) American Diploma Project (3) IBHE Public Agenda (4) IERC and how their work can all be brought together to integrate it and connect all the pieces.
- Rep. Barbara Flynn Curie suggested that in setting specific goals be careful they are attainable. Look at best practices as well as who is doing well. Also consider how to connect private education. Literacy and citizenship are as important as career readiness – effective participation in Civic Society.
- Ray Hancock (ICCB Foundation) said he didn’t see anything in the goals about finance and governance and the Council needs to think about what made Illinois great and what broke us.
- Kathy Ryg cautioned that the Council needs to be careful to not duplicate others efforts on Finance.

- Rep. Jerry Mitchell cautioned that the Council needs to be careful to not bring a lot of unfunded mandates on districts. That would be highly counterproductive.
- Erica Hunt (ISU) said there should be data benchmarks along the predictable areas. There are hugely predictive levels and benchmarks already identified through previous research.

Lizanne summarized discussion as coming to some agreement that:

1. "College and Career Readiness" might be elevated to a mega goal, and should be expanded to "School, College, Career, and Civic Readiness" and should include a reference to finance and governance.
2. There should be a single metric goal focused on post-secondary completion rate and it should be set far enough away and big enough to have an impact. Both the Obama administration and the Lumina Foundation have set such goals and ours should be in alignment.

Miguel del Valle commented that the Council's task is to recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly and it should include finance. Education funding reform is ongoing – the Council will make the statements, but what the General Assembly does with it is another matter.

Lizanne DeStefano and Miguel del Valle said they will figure out a draft document based on what has been said today, and then it will be put out into committees for review.

#### **Other Business:**

Next meeting - Wednesday, October 27, 2010

#### **Miscellaneous Other:**

- a. Julie Smith gave an update on the Illinois budget. The Supplemental Medicare Bill has still not been passed by the federal government, and that represents \$750 million for Illinois. The Jobs for Education bill will bring \$400 million to the state. The state still has very large outstanding bills for FY10; the priority for revenues in FY11 is to pay out FY10 bills. There is also a short term borrowing bill pending (\$3.5 billion) as of this meeting date.
- b. Kathy Ryg mentioned that the Illinois After School and Youth Development Act passed on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It allows for public/private partnerships and an infrastructure to support out of school programs and activities.
- c. Chair del Valle said that he hopes to move the Council toward finalizing agreement on goals. He will attend the committee meetings, and is going to the RTTT meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The state will know in September whether Illinois will receive one of the awards. He also mentioned that Julie Smith has been fantastic in supporting the P-20 Council and he thanked her for her good work.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.